

~~SECRET~~

August 1970

26

A FREELY ELECTED MARXIST GOVERNMENT IN CHILE?

1. Propaganda efforts dealing with the presidential election in Chile, scheduled for 4 September 1970, should be concerned primarily with pointing out the danger that Chilean voters may elect a Marxist regime dedicated to the creation of a revolutionary Socialist state, thereby starting a process that, ironically, would culminate in the death of Chilean democracy. In addition to the cost to Chile, a success of this type would create an inherent danger in other countries whereby several disparate Communist groups, using the Chilean example, could manage to reconcile their differences sufficiently to form a popular electoral front and to choose and elect a presidential candidate.

2. Socialist Party Senator Salvador Allende is the candidate of the Communist-leftist Popular Unity (UP) front. Allende, a declared Marxist and member of the Communist World Council of Peace (the international front most directly concerned with Soviet foreign policy objectives), was nominated after a prolonged deadlock that strained relations among the groups that comprise the UP. In spite of predictions that his image would prove too "shop-worn"--he has campaigned for the presidency three times previously--Allende is proving to be a strong contender against the independent and conservative former President of Chile, Jorge Alessandri and the long-time Christian Democratic leader and former Ambassador of Chile to the U.S., Radomiro Tomic.

3. Because Allende has been a fixture in Chilean politics for such a long period of time, there is a tendency among Chileans of all classes to regard him more as a political tradition than as a political danger. The fact that he enjoys the trappings of an upper middle-class lifestyle has dulled the awareness of potential voters as to the implications of an electoral victory by such a candidate. The above tendencies should be countered and the voters made more aware of Allende as a real threat, while at the same time other countries are alerted to the threat to hemispheric tranquility if Allende wins.

a. The Allende program, for example, includes promises that an "assembly of the people" will control a completely overhauled executive, judiciary and the legislature, as well as the economy, armed forces, all communications media and foreign policy. The program calls for the nationalization of all basic industry "for the good of the state."

b. Allende's program is seen by some observers as more extreme than Castro's program of 1958. They further note that key support for the program comes from the Communist Party of Chile, considered the single most effective organization in the country; it is large, united, well organized, disciplined and has excellent leadership.

Approved for Release
July 2000

~~SECRET~~

13

~~SECRET~~

c.

d.

4.

SECRET

~~SECRET~~